

FRISCO ADOPTS WATERING RESTRICTIONS AND JOINS 13 AREA CITIES IN WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

(June 3, 2005) The City of Frisco joins thirteen North Texas cities by adopting a regional water conservation program during summer months. As a result, Frisco residents are now restricted from outdoor watering between 5 a.m. – 8 a.m. and from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., from June 1 through September 30.

“We’re restricting watering because of our need to use water wisely and promote conservation,” said Gary Hartwell, Director of Public Works. “We’re not restricting watering because our system can’t meet demands. This is about being proactive and supporting a regional effort.”

Hartwell says the new program, which was adopted by the City Council last month, was initiated by the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), which has thirteen member cities, including Frisco.

Aside from Frisco, the NTMWD Board of Directors is made up of representatives from Allen, Farmersville, Forney, Garland, McKinney, Mesquite, Plano, Princeton, Richardson, Rockwall, Royce City and Wylie.

The NTMWD water conservation program recommended cities prohibit outdoor watering between 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Hartwell says NTMWD decided to restrict watering during the daytime hours due to the ‘evaporation factor’.

The new conservation program also allows cities to further restrict watering, based on individual cities’ peak hours. Consequently, the City of Frisco is also prohibiting watering between 5 a.m. – 8 a.m., which has previously been a voluntary practice in Frisco for years.

“Peak hours for water usage aren’t the same for every city,” said Hartwell. For us, our peak hours are from 5 a.m. – 8 a.m. Our water usage is highest during those morning hours when people are showering, brushing their teeth, washing dishes and getting ready to start their day,” added Hartwell.

Because of Frisco’s past proactive efforts, Hartwell says, the city has never had to implement mandatory rationing during drought conditions.

“In my fifteen years here, we’ve never had to mandate restrictions due to a water demand problem,” said Hartwell.

Though Frisco’s water conservation program is now mandatory, there are exceptions for new landscaping and house foundations. Residents have 30 days to water new landscaping and soaker hoses are allowed to protect foundations during dry conditions.

In addition to the water conservation program, the Frisco City Council has adopted a revised Drought Contingency Plan, which includes several stages that limit watering to certain days of the week based on residents’ house numbers.

Hartwell says having the two plans in place help Frisco and it’s ability to deal with other ‘crisis’ situations that may arise related to ‘Homeland Security’, public health and system problems, such as a major main break.

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Frisco Adopts Watering Restrictions and Joins 13 Area Cities in Water Conservation Program
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“Frisco is being proactive and we’re not wasting water,” said Hartwell. “It’s a good, positive step to help avoid a critical situation,” said Hartwell.

The new water conservation program water restrictions will be automatically take effect every year, June 1 through September 30.

For more information about Frisco’s new ordinance and Drought Contingency Plan, check out the Department of Public Works’ webpage at <http://www.friscotexas.gov/publicworks/index.html> You can also get tips on water conservation by checking out the City of Frisco’s Waterwise public education program at <http://www.friscotexas.gov/waterwise/index.html>

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